

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Revised**

House Bill 757 (Prince George’s County Delegation)

Appropriations

**Prince George’s County - Sheriff’s Office - State Funding**  
**PG 309-98**

This bill transfers budgetary responsibility for the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office from the county to the State.

The bill is effective October 1, 1998.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$13.1 million in FY 1999 reflecting assumption of budgetary responsibility for nine months. Out-years reflect annualization and 2.5% inflation. Potential increase in general fund revenues of approximately \$2.2 million for nine months of FY 1999 (not reflected on chart).

(in millions)	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	13.1	17.9	18.3	18.8	19.2
Net Effect	(\$13.1)	(\$17.9)	(\$18.3)	(\$18.8)	(\$19.2)

*Note: ( ) - decrease; GF - general funds*

**Local Effect:** Prince George’s County expenditures would decrease in proportion to the increase in State general fund expenditures. Potential decrease in revenues to the extent of any increase in general fund revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Fiscal Analysis

**State Revenues:** The bill does not specify whether the State would be entitled to the revenue generated by the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office from fees collected. Currently revenue from the Sheriff's Office is retained by the county. Historically, the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office has collected approximately \$3 million annually, therefore revenues could increase by \$2.2 million for nine months in fiscal 1999, and \$3 million annually thereafter.

**State Expenditures:** In fiscal 1998 the Prince George's County budget for the Sheriff's office was based on the assumption that the county would cease its District Court related functions. However, at this time, the issue remains unresolved pending a decision by the courts. As such, a more accurate reflection of the Sheriff's Office operations is the fiscal 1997 budget. At the time the budget was adopted, the county had 196 full-time sworn employees and 58 full-time civilian employees. The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office general fund appropriation for fiscal 1997 was \$17,043,962. This amount includes salaries and fringe benefits (\$14,963,799) as well as operating expenses (\$2,080,163). It does not include any grant funds, an issue not addressed by the bill.

Assuming an increase of 2.5% in these costs, by fiscal 1999 the full cost of operating the Sheriff's Office is estimated at \$17,470,061. Accordingly, it is estimated that State general fund expenditures would increase by \$13,102,546 for nine months of fiscal 1999. Out-year expenditures reflect full year costs and 2.5% inflation increases annually. Although it is unclear from the bill which State agency would be responsible for the Sheriff's Office, it is expected that it would fall under the purview of the State's judicial system for budgetary matters.

The State currently pays the retirement contribution for the Prince George's County Sheriff. The bill does not specify whether the employees of the Sheriff's Office would remain in the Prince George's County pension system, be placed into the State employee's pension system, or be given an option. Therefore the estimates contained in this fiscal note assume that the State would make pension contributions that are equal to those currently made by Prince George's County.

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**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 1998

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